

We Extend Our Deepest Sympathy To Virginia McKinney In The Loss Of Her Brother In Florida Last Week. He Was 97 Years Old.

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Joni McConnell is back home and is receiving therapy twice per week, but now has a pinch nerve and severe carpal tunnel in both hands.

Iris Hash's son Bobby Epeards is in ICU in Linton, due to his second heartache.

Delores Hendrickson is still struggling with a bad cough but is better.

Charlie Henard's niece, Brittany Henard, is battling terminal cancer.

Karen Sproles is still dealing with pain in her knee.

Jean England, daughter of Karen Sproles, is still having stomach issues.

John Richardson is having stomach issues and is to be moved to Eskenazi Hospital.

Ken Roosa's sister, Sandy Twigg is to have surgery Oct. 1st to remove a spot on her lung to see if it is malignant. She is a member of Stop Eleven Rd. Church of Christ.

Pray For Our Shut-Ins:

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, John & Terry Richardson

Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru). See latest mission reports on the bulletin board in the back of the auditorium.

Gospel Meeting:

The Shelbyville Rd. Church of Christ will be hosting a gospel meeting September 29 – October 3. Brother Ronnie Whittemore will be doing the speaking. Services times are 10, 11 AM and 5 PM on Sunday and 7 PM Monday – Thursday.

Men's Business Meeting:

The next men's business meeting will be Wednesday, October 2nd at 5:00 PM.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, October 6th, following the AM services. Following the pitch-in, at 1:00 PM, we will have a service in song.

Ladies' Day:

The ladies of the congregation will be hosting a ladies' day on Saturday, October 5th starting at 9:00 AM at the church building. The theme is "Mirror, Mirror" and the guest speaker will be sister Beverly Blair of the Stop 11 Rd. Church of Christ in Indianapolis.

Annual Fish Fry:

We will be having our annual church fish fry on Saturday, October 12th at 5:00 PM.

Radio Program:

Please remember to tune in every Sunday morning at 8:00 AM to WCBK 102.3 FM to hear our radio program which is entitled: "Preparing For Eternity".

God's Plan For Our Salvation

Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).

Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).

Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).

Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).

Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).

Faithful Christian Living, after the above five steps (I Peter 2:11, 12; Rev. 2:10).

September 29, 2024

MORGAN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

**540 E. Morgan Street
Martinsville, IN 46151
(765) 342-6027**



Schedule of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study – 9:30 AM

Worship – 10:30 AM

Evening Service - 6:00

Wednesday

Bible Study – 6:00 PM

Thursday

Ladies' Bible Study – 11:00 AM (March through October)

Radio Program:

"Preparing For Eternity"

Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

Website:

www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

PREACHER

“What Will You Preach?”

Bob Spurlin

Gospel preachers have many tasks to perform during the course of a year. Among their greatest priorities is choosing suitable sermon material for the congregations where they serve. Sermons come in different categories including: expository, topical, character studies, doctrinal, and devotional. Preachers would be wise to regularly conduct a thorough self-examination of their work. A New Year offers the local preacher an opportunity to assess his preaching, while taking into account his pulpit work for the coming year.

The primary duty of the Gospel preacher is to preach. But, “What will he preach?” Paul writes, “*Preach the word, be instant in season; out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine*” (II Tim. 4:2). This is a charge of great importance as the minister virtually holds life and death in his tongue. The apostle Paul declared, “*For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel*” (I Cor. 9:16).

Preachers are to feed their hearers the pure Gospel. The apostle Peter declares, “*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby*” (I Peter 2:2). The local preacher, like the cook, must provide a balanced diet. Our families deserve a healthy diet, and likewise a preacher must feed his hearers spiritual food which will enhance their spiritual health. The following are some suggestions for those who preach.

A healthy portion of first principles. Faithful preachers will include a healthy dose of the first principles of the Gospel during the year. The writer to the Hebrews said, “*Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip*” (Heb. 2:1). The American Standard Version renders the last part of the verse, “Lest haply we drift away from them.” We see those in the church “drifting” from a life of faithfulness and we wonder why this is happening. The ABCs or fundamentals of the Gospel, should be stressed regularly. Preachers must never assume their listeners are fully cognizant of God’s plan for redemption. The fundamentals of the Gospel must be regularly preached and reviewed. I fondly recall as a child that Gospel preachers would take their place in the pulpit with “book, chapter, and verse” preaching. Also, due emphasis was given in each lesson to the five steps to salvation. Since the eternal destiny of souls is always in the balance, Gospel preachers will not neglect this needed practice.

A hearty discussion of the Old Testament. It is possible to lose sight of the valuable lessons rooted in the Old Testament. Recently a Gospel preacher was going through his “annual review.” He was informed that preaching from the Old Testament was no longer effective. Let us not exclude an important part of God’s revelation, as

the Old Covenant needs to be studied with keen interest.

The apostle Paul emphasized, “*For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope*” (Rom. 15:4). Consider how character studies from Abel, Abraham, Moses, Noah, Daniel, Elijah, and others give us illustrations of faith, obedience and devotion to Jehovah (Heb. 11:1-40). Imagine the difficulty of understanding Romans, II Corinthians, Galatians, and Hebrews without a knowledge or familiarity with the Old Testament. Preachers of the past used to say: “The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed, while the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.”

We have often heard it said, “The church of Christ does not believe in the Old Testament?” Those hungry souls that listen from week to week need to hear sermons regularly on the Old Testament. This section of the Bible highlights the many shadows and types pointing to the covenant of Christ (Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 9:15-17).

A hefty embrace of Christian living. One of the greatest needs for the child of God is staying informed of the basic tenets of Christian living. The minister should give serious attention to this much-needed subject. Jesus said, “*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away*” (Matt. 24:35). Living the Christian life, or any other aspect of Christianity, is to be guided by the absolute Word of God (Psalm 119:89; II Tim. 3:16-17). We live in an age when moral relativism is the rule of the day. Thus sermons about Christian living should include warnings concerning such subjects as immodest apparel, dancing, tobacco use, fornication, alcohol, and drugs. We must never forget a Christian is a person who wears the name of the Lord. We belong to Jesus, therefore our daily lives should be conducted in accordance with His will (Matt. 7:24-27).

A honest dose of Christian evidences. Positive encouragement and instruction is received when the local preacher devotes time to a study of Christian evidences. These studies benefit all hearers in strengthening their faith in God. Listening to sermons will edify all that hear the message (Eph. 4:15-16). The theme of Christian evidences includes the following topics: the existence of God, the deity of Christ, the age of the earth, and the problem of evil. Several years ago a wise preacher was quizzed about the single most important Scripture in the entire Bible. He replied, “*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth*” (Gen. 1:1). The preacher predicated his remarks on the fundamental premise that if we do not believe in the integrity of Genesis 1:1, the balance of the Bible has little meaning (John 6:44-45).

CONCLUSION

For preaching to be effective, there must be sincerity of presentation, clarity of speech, suitability of material, and simplicity of lesson. Following this pattern will accomplish a threefold purpose: 1) It will bring people to Christ so they might be saved (John 6:44- 45); 2) It will cause Christians to grow spiritually (I Peter 2:1-2; II Peter 3:13); and 3) Will keep Christians saved (James 1:21; I Cor. 15:1-2).